

Intervention: Provider reminder systems alone

Finding: Sufficient evidence for effectiveness

Potential partners to undertake the intervention:

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nonprofits or local coalitions | <input type="checkbox"/> Businesses or labor organizations |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Schools or universities | <input type="checkbox"/> Media |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Health care providers | <input type="checkbox"/> Local public health departments |
| <input type="checkbox"/> State public health departments | <input type="checkbox"/> Policymakers |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hospitals, clinics or managed care organizations | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |

Background on the intervention:

Provider reminders inform or prompt health care providers to determine patient's tobacco use status and/or deliver brief advice to quit. These provider reminders involve efforts to identify patients who use tobacco products and to prompt providers to discuss with these patients the importance of quitting. Providers receive reminders through stickers on patients' charts, vital signs stamps, medical record flow sheets, checklists, and by computer. Provider reminders are often combined with other approaches.

Findings from the systematic reviews:

There is sufficient evidence that provider reminder systems are effective in increasing smoking cessation. In the seven qualifying studies, the evaluated techniques for prompting providers were chart prompts or stickers, "expanded vital signs" that include status of tobacco use, and flow sheets. Four studies found a median absolute percentage increase in determining which patients use tobacco of 32.5 percentage points (in periods that extended from 8 to 24 months after beginning the program).

For providers delivering advice to quit, five studies observed a median absolute increase of 13 percentage points (in assessments that extended from 2 to 24 months after the programs began).

These approaches have been shown to be effective in a variety of settings, including primary and family clinics.

References:

Guide to Community Preventive Services - www.thecommunityguide.org/tobacco/